

THE MAN OF MYSTERY

PROPERTY OF WILLARD B. PRICE



# A MAN OF MYSTERY

## CAST

NED KEENE ..... LEAD  
RICHARD BLENWOOD ..... HEAVY LEAD  
DOCTOR LESLIE ..... GENTEEL OLD MAN  
NOAH LOTT ..... COLORED COMEDY  
BILL BURKE ..... CHARACTER HEAVY  
TOM BUTTONS ..... HEAVY

FLOSSIE GREENWOOD ..... LEAD  
KATE BURKE ..... HEAVY  
MILLIE MERTON ..... JUVENILE  
MOLL ..... BIT  
MEG ..... HAG

## SCENES.

### ACT ONE

Reception room and study of Dr. Leslie, large arch up R backed by bay window which is turned backed by street door R 3 # room prison door to represent vault or safe door with two handles swung down and out. Door L 3 E with interior backing. Large door or arch up L F with steps leading off and interior backing for same. Red brazier down. Large chandelier hung in C to light piano. Piano lamp L desk L Pen ink clean blotter small hand mirror twenty four assorted bottles, containing clear liquid of different colors, graduation glass two wine glasses books etc on desk small drawer i desk, locked bills of paper money in it Three packages of documents in vault. revealing office chair at desk replace R with red glow photos bric a brac on mantle sofa R small table at end of sofa, screen in front door R 3 just back of sofa draperies at every door rugs easel with picture cabinet of books etc to dress stage.

### ACT TWO

The same as Act One.

### ACT THREE

Rough kitchen interior breakway door with bar on it and mounted on steps L door R set should be built as far down as proscenium. Old bed mattress and blankets on it against flat trap with ring in it to work on inges rope near it, platform four feet beneath old table R and rickety chair near table candle in bottle on table also knife and three ft club. Dark stage, red foots, and borders



on lightening effect, thunder and wind effect during act.  
barred window R in F to open it bars outside.

#### ACT FOUR

Same as Act One.

#### A MAN OF MYSTER

#### ACT ONE

DR  
(enters) Noah! Noah!  
Noah

Yes sah!

Dr  
(I've lost my glasses, have you seen them,  
Noah

(grinning) Yes sah.

Dr  
What are you laughing about? Why don't you give them to me?  
Noah

(takes glasses from Dr's forehead heHere dey is sah

Dr  
(looks at them surprised) Eh?--yes yes I really believe I'm  
getting absent minded (sniff) Here take th s to the  
labratory (gives Noah small bottle of dark liquid)  
Handle it carefully, it is a deadly poison. (Noah scared drops  
bottle) Ther now you've spilled it.

Noah  
Yes sah, I done sated some Po' fellow's life (gives bottle to Dr  
who refills it at desk)

Dr  
(sternly) Noah!

Noah  
Yes sah!

Dr  
Don't you let me hear you speak that way again of the noble profession  
of medicine, know take this and don't drop it (gives bottle)

Noah  
(takes it holds it at arm's length circling around to arch 3) Smell  
like its dead.

Dr  
The Dr is the friend of the human race; he keeps lots of people  
in the world

Noah  
Yes sah, an' he keep heaps and heaps out (exit R U)

Millie  
(enter L U she is stylishly dressed a young girl with rather bored  
air and society accent)

Millie  
Good morning, Dr.

Dr  
Good morning Miss Millie. Really I'm highly complimented you put on  
you most attractive w r paint to visit me, your old family physian  
Miss Merton, if I were only thrity years young---

Millie  
You wo jdn't ractice on me. I'm afraid of young physicians,  
Besdies did you ever see me without a nice frock?

Millie- Dr.  
(surpei- Only once.

Millie  
when was that?



Flo

Nothing.

Milly

Nothing is a very serious complain when a girl sighs so deeply about it. What is the color of his eyes?

Flo

Whose?

Milly

Mr. Nothing.

Flo

There isn't a Mr. Nothing nor a Mr. Nobody.

Milly

Then there is a Mr. Somebody they symptoms are very suspicious.

Flo

But I tell you there isn't anybody besides it's a secret.

Milly

Tell me. I love secrets. Is it Count Macheroni?

Flo

Catch me in love with such a name, it sounds too much like maccaroni.

Milly

I can't think! Oh I know---that pianist with the long hair.

Flo

No indeed! I'd be sure to mistake his head for a door mat.

Millie

Reggy Van Wert who drives the bays?

Flo

No, no no!

Millie

I can't guess who is it.

Flo

I don't know.

Milly

You don't know?

Flo

(with suspicion of a sob) NO.

Milly

Flossie, its bad form to fall in love without an introduction.

Flo

I've done it

Millie

Tell me all about it.

Flo

(looking suspiciously about) Thursday I went driving Rovershield he reared---he bolted---(spoken slowly)

Milly

And you screamed.

Flo

No I was too frightened. I thought it was all over, and shut my eyes, Then the rig stopped so suddenly I nearly went over the dash board I openened my eyes and saw---

Milly

Him.

Flo

Yes.

Milly

What did he say?

Flo

He said whoa.

Milly

Well?



Flo  
Rover whoaed, Oh Milly he looked so nice; the brightest eyes and---

Milly  
Who Rover?

Flo  
No my ---that is---the gentleman you know.

Milly  
Oh!?

Flo  
Then I took my whip and cut him twice.

Milly  
The gentleman?

Flo  
No Rover, I wouldn't have been at all angry if he has spoken.

Milly  
Rover?

Flo  
No

Milly  
Flossie tell me all about him and never mind Rover, I'm so mixed up now that I'll be dreaming all night of you carrying on a conversation with Rover and whipping a genntlman, wht did he do?

Flo  
Nothing, he bowed and went away Today I saw him again. I teased Rover nearly to death, but he wouldn' t run away

Milly  
Too bad.

Flo  
Suppose I should never see him again---now don't say Rover.

Milly  
Don't you know a romance never turns out that way? Some day when you are pining away in secret giref thus (barle que siging Flo turns away pouting) He will come riding boldly up.

Flo  
On a beautiful Black horse.

Milly  
I think they do it on a wheel nowadays.

Flo  
Facny yo ng Lochinvar on a tandem

Milly  
With shinging eyes he will kneel at your feet and say (she kneels  
Flo R of C Milly C enter Dr L 2 E) Darling, do you love me?

Flo  
I do.

Milly  
And you'll be mine?

Flo  
Yes yes

Dr  
(dryly coming down) And when will that event take place (looks at them amazed they embzarassed Fr picks up bottle from desk starts L 3)

Flo  
We were rehearsing you know for our charades.

Dr  
You do it extremely well, by the way Miss Merton how are you feeling now?

Milly  
Oh splendidly I forgot I was ill. (Dr writes at desk) Won't you give me the prescription for that medicine you gave me the other day?

Dr

(



Dr  
(gives her paper) Yes here it is.

Milly  
(glances at it) Why this can't be a prescription.

Dr  
Why not?

Milly  
Its ngglish ---doesn't look a bit like fly tracks I can read it.

Dr  
I intended you should. Read it carefully (Milly X's R Dr looks about uneasily overdesk) I left a four once bottle of cyanide here just now, and I can't find it anywhere. (Flow X's and takes it from his hand he looks confused) I'm so absent minded (exit D L 34

Milly  
(reading) One pill made of bread twice daily one ounce of water, six grains of imagination, and that is what he gave me.

Flo  
But it cured your head ache and he'll send in his bill just the same (they X and sit on sofa R. Noah ushers in Ned Keene R U)

Flo  
(boldly advances C Ned doesn't see her and goes slowly up looks after others R Q Why how do you do?

Ned  
(turns somewhat surprised) Good morning.

Flo  
I am so glad to meet you again

Ned  
(puzzled) Charmed I'm sure.

Flo  
I have so wisd to see you and thank you for your beavery. It was so noble of you

Ned  
I beg pardon, there must be some misunderstanding. You mistake me for some one else.

Flo  
(hurt aside to Milly) OH Milly he don't even know who I am.

Milly  
(boldly) Introduce me.

Flo  
I can't I don't know who he is.

Milly  
This is Mr. Nothing? (Flo nods to Ned) Don't you remember, sir a few days ago in the park a horse bolted and you stopped him?

Ned  
Oh you were the youn lady? (to Milly)

Flo  
(coming forward) No no I was the young lady I can never express my gratitude.

Ned  
It was nothing anyone could have done the same.

Flo  
But you did it won't you sit down Mr---Mr---

Ned  
Archer.

Flo  
Mr. Archer, Miss Merton (they bow Flo slips around to other side of sofa R of C aside to Milly) Introduce me.

Milly  
(between them) Mr Archer Miss Glenwood. (all sit Flo C Milly R Ned L of C)



Flo  
(aside to Milly) Milly, what must I say to him?

Milly  
Answer his questions?

Flo  
But he isn't askin' any (enter Dr R U followed by Noah)

Dr  
(coming down) Bless my soul! The impudence of the fellow.  
(all rise Noah replaces chairs in proper places and exits R 3 Dr goes extreme L and turns)

Flo  
Uncle Herbert, I want to introduce you to Mr Archer who has a great claim on my gratitude, my uncle Dr Herbert Leslie.

Dr  
(heartily) Happy to see you sir.

Ned  
The pleasure is mine Dr Leslie, I came to consult you---

Dr  
Certainly (X 'C Flossie if you and Miss Merton will excuse me for a few moments.

Flo and Milly  
Oh certainly---don't mention it (bas adlib as they turn to go up stage Flo gives Ned admiring look as he is looking at her he gets full power of it she recovered herself and shyly goes up to arch L C with Milly they sit in window Ned attempts to follow them Dr lays his hand on his arm he turns back)

Dr  
(looking at him) You said you wished to consult me?

Ned  
Yes sir I---I--

Dr  
You look healthy what is the matter?

Ned  
Heart trouble. (stands where he can see girls who are talking aside about Ned and trying to hear what he is saying)

Dr  
Of long standing?

Ned  
Never noticed it until today.

Dr  
Why do you think it's your heart?

Ned  
(glancing at Flo) The complaint I've caught never is any place else unless something is done I fear it is all up with me (Flo pleased at this her eyes meet his she drops hers hurriedly and pretends to be picking a rose to pieces then as Ned turns away she and Milly whisper together. Dr lays head on Ned's heart Ned again looks up stage, same bus as before)

Dr  
Your heart is as sound as a bell (X's L)

Ned  
My heart is no longer mine.

Dr  
(astonished) Ehm  
Ned  
I mean--yes yes of course.

Dr  
Young man do you think I'm a fool?

Ned  
Oh no sir.

Dr



Dr  
Your behavior indicates that you do

Ned  
I realize it, I beg your pardon

Dr  
Now what's the matter with you?

Ned  
In fact nothing.

Dr  
I thought so. Explain your business.

Flo  
I see you stand at the door, you are a servant, you are a gentleman

'ncle Herbert.

Dr  
I beg pardon - didn't see you I'm really becoming very absent minded.

Flo  
I'm afraid you are mistaken this is the gentleman who saved my life.

Dr  
Is that so? Allow me to thank you. You seem to be on hand at the right time like the young gentleman we read about in Dumas---

Ned  
Really sir I---I---

Flo  
And he isn't here on business at all he was passing by and he stopped for a few moments to say good morning and ask how I felt after my fright, didn't you. (Ned looks astounded) Say yes)

Ned  
Oh--a yes yes certainly

Dr  
Well, why didn't you say so at first instead of beating about the bush? Upon my soul I didn't think that men nowadays were so bashful.  
(Flo and Ned R "oah nters R U)

Noah  
Dr. Mason wants to see you for a moment sah dar's a gentleman about to die and he wants you to help him

Dr  
Where is he?

Noah  
In his carriage at the front door.

Dr  
Say I'm coming.

Noah  
Yes sah. (exit R U Flo X's to hat rack R U gets hat then X is back to Dr.)

Flo  
Don't go without your hat Uncle Herbert, you'll catch cold. (puts hat on his head he starts briskly out R U 3 times turns back)

Dr  
I think I know what he wants.

Flo  
To borrow some of your extracts hI expects.

Dr  
Yes.

Flo  
He knows them fatal.

Dr  
Flossie, don't jest on such serious matters (He takes bottle from desk L s arts out stops) mdear, dear Flossie what did you do with my hat?



Flo

I gave it to you. You have it. (not looking at him)

Dr

I can't find it any where. (Flo turns sees it on his head points to it smiles he finds it, is embarrassed) Dear me I'm so absent minded (exit Hastily R U Flo L Milly and Ned talking Flo sees them and appears snubbed)

Flo

Ahem!

Ned

Beg pardon you said---

Flo

Nothing

Ned

I thought I heard you say something---that is nothing.

Flo

(looks daggers at Milly (to Ned) Won't you sit down?

Ned

Thank you. (X's and sits on chair L C which Flo has placed for him)

Milly

Good bey Flossie, I've so many places to go

Flo

(sarcastically) Don't hurry

Milly

Oh I must go

Flo

(going up R with Milly) So sorry

Milly

Yes. I know that two is company and threes a convention. Good bye good day Mr Archer. (Ned bows Milly exit R U Ned rises and bows as Milly speak and resumes his chair not looking at Flo she looks at him admiringly and sits chair C.)

Flo

(aside) I see if theres any talking to be done I'll have to do it. (to Ned) I hope you will pardon the little fib I told Uncle Herbert awhile ago.

Ned

Did you tell him one?

Flo

Yes about your calling to see---that is to ask after my health---and--

Ned

What that a fib?

Flo

Of course?

Ned

How do you know?

Flo

Because you had frogtotten me, don't deny it I'm afraid your memory does n't equal your courage.

Ned

Please don't think anything more of that little service.

Flo

Little service? You saved my life.

Ned

I have been more than repaid.

Flo

You haven't been repaid at all, some day pershaps I ca show you how grateful I am will you tell me why that r ought man ran the moment he saw you? And how did you know his name?



Ned

Miss Glenwood you consider yourself under an obligation to me.  
Will you grant me a favor?

Flo

Certainly what is it?

Ned

Don't ask me any questions about that fellow I can only tell you hat  
he had good reasons to go.

Flo

Oh I beg your pardon I won't mention it again, but you aroused my  
curiosity.

Ned

I am so sorry, they say that is fatal to a secret.

Flo

Wait and see, but I must ask you one question, you didn't come to  
call on me, and you couldn't tell Uncle Herbert why you came, can you tel  
me?

Ned

Are you sorry I came?

Flo

No, I told you I was glad.

Ned

And so am I alth ough to tell the truth it was an accident.

Flo

How will you explain to Uncle Herbert?

Ned

You explained to him

Flo

So I did, but it was a fib.

Ned

I came here as I said accidntaly in the last ten minutes a very  
important event has occurred I now have business here.

Flo

(eagerly) With---

Ned

our uncle.

Flo

(disappointed) Oh! (Dr Enters R U X to L) Here he is I won't intrude  
I hope to see you again Mr Archer, especially if you have anything  
to bring you here besides business with---my uncle (Give Ned  
meaning look and exits R U Ned follows her up R and bows her off  
and looks after her meanwhile Dr fills a graduate with liquid  
Ned comes C Dr starts across C they meet and nearly collide)

Dr

Beg your pardon I didn't see you. To tell you the truth I forgot you  
were here, I'm so absent minded.

Ned

Dr Leslie, can you spare me ten minutes?

Dr

(puts down graduate) Yes sir.

Ned

Have you any valuable papers, or jewels---any portable property of  
exceptional value here in the house?

Dr

Ye sir.

Ned

You are about to lose it.

Dr

Lose it?

Ned

Yes lose it your property is in great danger.



Dr

And you?

Ned

I know the danger exists and am here to help you save it.

Dr

The devil you are? Who are you?

Ned

I am Ned Keene the detective known to the force as Lucifer.

Dr

(eyes him astonished ) Impossible!

Ned

(takes card case and gives card) My card if you have any doubt on the subject I can easily dispel them

Dr

Surely you are not the man who caught Major Carbury's murderer?

Ned

Yes.

Dr

And recovered the Van Gilt diamonds.

Ned

Yes.

Dr

And anticipated the Klien bank robber and saved the bank?

Ned

(impatiently) Ye---yes I did that.

Dr

Dr

Why the papers have been full of you for months. You say my property is in danger?

Ned

When a man sees a flock of vultures hovering a circle what does he think lies beneath?

Dr

Carrien

Ned

Exactly. (they look steadily at each other for a moment)

Dr

(after pause) My property is in the vault.

Ned

Better put it in a bank

Dr

I don't trust banks.

Ned

Well a safety deposit vault then.

Dr

(opens door of vault L of C) Look the door is of iron three inches thick, the steel safe is set there is covered with masonry and is burglar proof who can break in there?

Ned

The Shadow.

Dr

Who's the Shadow?

Ned

If I knew I would be \$10,000 better off and the world would be rid of a great rogue.

Dr

But he can't open that

Ned

That would be child's play for him.

Dr

What is he?



Ned

The most skillful and daring criminal in existence for a year he has baffled the police of the world. neither belts nor bars, guards nor watchmen annoy him. If he sees anything he wants he gets it. He's been doing it right along, and we don't know which way to turn.

Dr

You are on his track?

Ned

I am trying to catch him.

Dr

Have you any clue?

Ned

I have my ~~suspicions~~ suspicions

Dr

And you think the man is after my valuables.

Ned

I am certain of it.

Dr

Why?

Ned

One of his confederates came to your house.

Dr

You mean the tough person that was here today?

Ned

Yes.

Dr

How do you know he is a confederate.

Ned

I have been watching him for months.

Dr

Why don't you arrest him?

Ned

I have not an atom of tangible evidence against him, but I know that twice that man has been seen in certain localities and within a week these places were looted by the shadow let me urge you to remove this property to a place of safety.

Dr

No, the only time I ever trusted a bank, I lost a fortune, it shall remain here. Will you stay here and watch it?

Ned

I?

Dr

Yes, if you think there is danger and a chance to catch this man stay here.

Ned

Thank you I'll do it, I'll have a plain clothes man watch the house day and night, but my presence here will be discovered and frighten them away

Dr

Can't you conceal it?

Ned

Introduce me as Ned Archer your private secretary tell no one not even the members of your family who I am (enter Noah R U carrying a tray with wine and lunch and X's to desk L)

Noah

I've been preambulating all about the place to find Miss Flossie and give her the lunch, is she here?

Dr

No Noah, this is the great O---(Ned coughs gives Dr sharp look)

Dear me I'm so absent minded. Pace a desk in my library for me



Archer, this is my new secretary.

Noah

(puts tray on desk and starts away) Yes ah (X's C)

Dr

remove that lunch don't let me find it here when I come back come Mr. Archer.

Ned

(as they go) Be careful (both exit L 3)

Noah

Remove dat lunch I wondah if he meant it all right sah y ' won't fin' it heah when yo' comes back (takes lunch to table R holds up wine) Mydat looks nice (smiles) Smell nicer dan it looks (tastes) Tastes nicer than it smells (drinks and nibbles cake) White folks ah does hbbgood vittles (tries to drink then turns decanter upside down) Its all gone. I wondah if dah's anything else heah I kin drink (finds liquid in graduate) Dat looks like gin, I'll jest absorb it. (drinks enter Dr L 3 Noah X's C and hold graduate behind him)

Dr

Noah I left some medicine here just now did you see it?

Noah

Maybe it evaporated.

Dr

The graduate is gone.

Noah

Maybe it evaporated too

Dr

(catches glimpse of graduate in Noah's hand) did you drink it?

Noah

Me---no sah.

Dr

I'm very glad of it, its deadly poison

Noah

What?

Dr

Chyes certain death

Noah

(anxiously) Oh Lord! Oh Dr get a stomach pump I swallowed de whole business. (clutch stomach) (rolls on floor Dr tries to catch and hold him but Noah eludes him and crawls out L 3) followed by Dr. music p aintive Richard Glenwood enters Arch L U he is puritanical appearing man of thrity he goes down L looks around and starts to R U Bill enters hurriedly they meet face to face both astonished.)

Bill

Dr. Shadow!

Rich

(stopping his mouth) Silence you fool! (both look to see if they are observed) Are you following me?

Bill

Naw.

Rich

What are you doing here?

Bill

Risking my neck, cap for your sake.

Rich

What do you mean?

Bill

Lucifer!

Rich

What of him?

Bill

He's here.



Rich  
 Here in this house?  
 Bill  
 Yes I seen him he found me Mosey Cap and do it quick  
 Rich  
 What is he doing here?  
 Bill  
 I dunno.  
 Rich  
 He can't surprise me.  
 Bill  
 I'm leary dat he's next to me and dat's no joke.  
 Rich  
 How was he dressed?  
 Bill  
 Gray rags, soft lid, brown skates with dat yellow spark on his tile.  
 (very description to suit Ned's appearance.)  
 Rich  
 Are you sure it was Lucifer?  
 Bill  
 He didn't introduce himself but I'd swear it was.  
 Rich  
 Go at once.  
 Bill  
 (gives Rich note) Here.  
 Rich  
 What is it?  
 Bill  
 a note from de widder.  
 Rich  
 The widow?  
 Bill  
 Yep dat's de dame--de lady what sells de swag.  
 Rich  
 What can she want?  
 Bill  
 Coin.  
 Rich  
 (C and reads letter) Yes, money  
 Bill  
 (down L) She told me to tell you she must have it.  
 Rich  
 (Ned appears in door way L Rich tears note in small pieces) Say I'll send it.  
 Bill  
 Say cap is date what yer after? (pinto to vault and goes to safe, Rich drops pieces of paper and rushes to him Dr coughs outside, both Bill and Rich drop to ther knees in front of the vault in prayer, Dr enters L 3 and looks in ast nishment at them. Rich pretends not see see him rise and pulls Bill to feel and says in santimonious voice)  
 Rich  
 Now William, remember what I have told you be honest and you'll be happy.  
 ----Bill- Dr  
 Are you sure he is honest, Richard?  
 Rich  
 I can trust him with my life.  
 Dr  
 He came her this morning.



Bill

I hope ye don't feel sore at me sir its only me ignorance I mean well, I'm lookin' fer work, honest work on de dead, U used to be tough, didn't I sir. (to Rich)

Rich

Yes, Uncle William was once a very wicked man

Bill

A dead tough mug.

Rich

But I found him in the haunts of sin and plucked him like a rand from the buring, he has repented haven't you?

Bill

Betcher life, whatever's been done I'm sorry I does it. (Dr X's to L 1)

Rich

And remember this William there is one who sees everything every action and knows every thought. If guilty night will not screen you, you may fly but just punishment will follow you, do you know William who it is always watching you?

Bill

Lucifer. (Rich kicks him he jumps Dr turns) Good bye sir, don't forget de poor widder (Bill and Rich X to D R U Bill turns and gives Rich grimace and exits Rich looks after him Dr X's up to Rich enter Ned quickly and X' sup and picks up bits of paper thrown away by Rich and as he starts to pick up last one they turn he leaves it and exits quickly L 3 unobserved.)

Dr

I tell you I am positive you are deceived in that fellow

Rich

I hope not, by the way uncle can you let me have a little money ? (L)

Dr

How much?

Rich

Oh fifty dollars.

Dr

"hat do you do with so much money

Rich

Don't ask me, let not thy right hand know what thy left hand doeth.

Dr

Some more charity?

Rich

(Kate Burke enters D R U conceals herself in curtain watches them)

A poor widow she needs money badly

Dr

So will you if you spend all of yours.

Rich

Her rent is due, she needs clothing, I cannot bear to see her suffer.

Dr

(gives money) Here, Richard you are too generous (exit D L)

Kate

(coming down) He don't know you as well as I do.

Rich

Kate!

Kate

Come divide up, partners always go halves you know you're surprised to see me?

Rich

No 'M sorry

Kate

Don't try to snub me Richard you can't do it.

Rich

How did you find me?



Kate

Bill told me.

Rich

Do you know this is my home? Suppose Doctor Leslie discovers you?

Kate

I shall tell him I am here to be treated for consumption (coughs)

Rich

Well you're not here for pleasure what do you want?

Kate

Oh lots of things, I don't expect to get, and some I do, my rent, some new frocks, a diamond brooch a sealskin sawque a husband, and several other trifles not worth mentioning.

Rich

Well here is some money (gives her money\*)

Kate

Not enough

Rich

I gave you half.

Kate I

I want all.

Rich

I'm going to rechristen you the wolf instead of the widow

Kate

(laughs) The widow? Wouldn't be a lovely widow if I'd ever had a husband?

Rich

Yes you'd find it convenient to have a dead husband.

Kate

Better still, I'll have a living one congratulate me Dick, I'm going to marry.

Rich

You?

Kate

Why not? Wouldn't you be glad to see married and settled?

Rich

Indeed I would.

Kate

I thought so.

Rich

Is he young and rich?

Kate

Yes.

Rich

Does he know your past as well as I know it.

Kate

He does.

Rich

And still he will marry you?

Kate

And still he will marry me.

Rich

He must love you

Kate

Not a lot.

Rich

Then why is he fool enough to marry you?

Kate

Because I know his past.

Rich

Oh I see some young fellow you've entangled eh?



Kate

Yes.

Rich

Cleevr girl I should like to see him.

Kate

You should? Then you shall.

Rich

And shall I be present at the happy wedding?

Kate

Oh yes.

Rich

And who is the lucky man?

Kate

(rises bows mockingly) Your fascinating self.

Rich

(startled) What? Are you mad?

Kate

Not at all, I am going to sacrifice myself and become a blushing bride---fancy me blushing Dick?

Rich

Do you think I'm fool enough to marry you?

Kate

Why not?

Rich

What are you?

Kate

What you have made me.

Rich

I took you off the street

Kate

I wish you'd left me there.

Rich

I can send you back.

Kate

Not as I was, besides I know too much Six years ago I was a mere child selling matches during the day---sleeping on the street at night. One evening the match trade was dull I met you I thought you were a gentleman because you said you were and wore good clothes Youknow the rest. After that I gave up the match trade.

Rich

Don't speak so loud.

Kate

We can't afford to quarell. I know too much of your secrets. I've come to the conclusion that I'm going to be married and you are the lucky man.

Rich

Never!

Kate

You won't? Lucifer the great detective is close on the trail of the Shadwo. One word from me will put the shadow behind the bars, the price of my silence is a husband, I'll give you just thirty seconds for your answer. (he turns toward her enter Dr L 3 Flossie R 3)

Rich

(pause) Dr. Lesliel, I wish to introduce you to Miss Kathryn Burke who is shortly to become my wife (Dick C Kate R Dr L Flo X's down R.)

Flo

Oh Dick, are you going to be married?

Rich

My sister Flossie (enter Ned and picks up scrap of paper L 3)



Kate

Charmed.

Flo

Let me congratulate you Dick and how sly you were about it.  
You never told a soul (Flo R Dick next then Kate Dr L C Ned L)

Kate

(in low voice to Rich) That man has a scrap of the paper of my note  
to you. Who is he?

Rich

(startled) Who is this gentleman?

Dr

This gentleman is---

Ned

Ned Archer The doctors private secretary.

Dr

(as curtain falls) Oh I'm so absent minded. (Flo astonished Rich and  
Kate show relief.)

Kate

Dr.

Rich

Flo

Ned.

CURTAIN